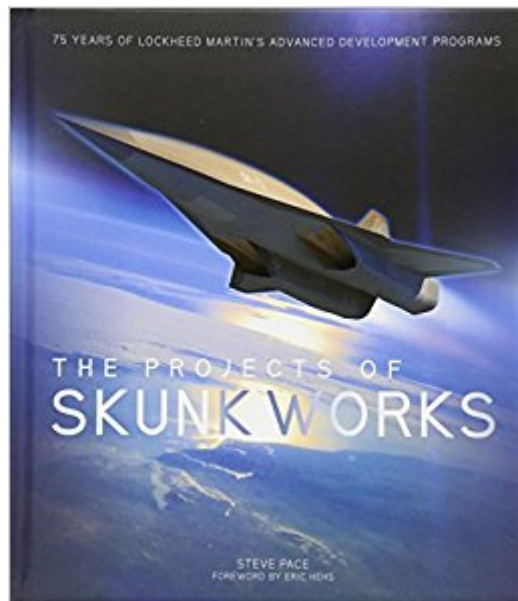




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The Projects Of Skunk Works: 75 Years Of Lockheed Martin's Advanced Development Programs



Synopsis

The stories behind more than 50 secret projects undertaken by the famed Lockheed Martin Skunk Works on behalf of the US Armed Forces, DARPA, and the CIA - all illustrated with official Skunk Works photography and commissioned artworks. Hatched in June 1943 after a special request of the US Army Air Forces to develop a turbojet-powered fighter to counter growing German threats, Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works has gone on to develop remarkable aeronautical and space technologies, including stealth. Some have made it into production, while others never quite made it off drafting boards and computer screens, but proved fascinating nonetheless. This generously illustrated history tackles Skunk Works programs ranging from jet fighters and jet engines to missiles and rockets, helicopters, research aircraft, airships, unmanned aerial vehicles and recon drones, and even the seagoing stealth ship Sea Shadow - more than 50 in all. Author Steve Pace examines the historical context which led government organizations to approach the Skunk Works, as well as the technologies and projects developed there (often on a handshake and unburdened by bureaucracies), and the anecdotes and legends associated with each program. Pace includes official Skunk Works photography of the projects taken both at its headquarters and at test facilities such as Area 51. In addition, commissioned color artworks help further illustrate many of these projects featured herein. In addition to profiling legendary aircraft like the F-80, F-94, F-104, U-2, SR-71, F-117, and F-35, Pace takes on more obscure projects from the past as well as those still to come, such as the hypersonic SR-72 and High Speed Strike Weapon, and even offers a peak into what the future might hold with the proposed TR-X.

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Customer Reviews

Steve Pace is a freelance aviation history writer, a contributing editor to Flight Journal, and the author of numerous articles and short features on a variety of aircraft and related subjects, as well as thirty aviation history books, including *The Big Book of X-Bombers and X-Fighters* (2016). He was raised in Seattle, Washington, where his father worked at the Boeing Airplane Company for more than thirty years. As the son of an aircraft builder, he became interested in aviation at an early age - instead of buying candy and marbles, he bought model airplane kits. Pace now resides in Tacoma, Washington.

This is a fascinating book with plenty of photos and graphics of the projects. One star deducted due to the annoying editing mistakes. There are a number of typos and grammatical errors that I find shocking for a modern book. However its well researched and readable. its sized as a coffee table book, which is what I've done with it. Sure enough, non-airplane guests have paged through it.

Awesome great, pictures are fun to look over multiple times. Oh yeah and I has words too. Too bad it doesn't mention Mr. Kelly Johnson. Author of Skunk works internet provided more information

The Lockheed Skunk Works evolution is discussed in depth here accompanied by splendid illustrations and photographs. This is a must-have bookfor the aviation enthusiast. An appreciation of the great development work done by Lockheed over the years is acquired by the reader of this volume. A top-notch job by Steve Pace!

This book has very good photos and illustrations but the history is given only in very general terms with little or detail. For example, the heading on page 77 has "... Rex Series of Engine Fiasco" with explanation of anything related to a "fiasco". The page ends by simply saying that the USAF terminated the project.

Very informative book, but needs to be edited for caption mismatches and dual photographs

This is a fun book with a lot of problems. Many of the problems could have been fixed with better editing (examples: 38 February or showing pictures but the related text was pages away or saying that the information was classified in one box (U2R) and then showing that information on the airplane in the next page. But there are other problems that you will realize if you have read more

detailed books on various projects. I'm enjoying the book and if you are interested in this material you will also probably like it, but cross check with Wikipedia frequently.

Tries to compete with Pocock

great book

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